TRADE AND INDUSTRIES

(iii) Labour.

866. The general labour conditions in the State during the year were generally normal and peaceful but for a few minor disturbances on account of strikes by the employees of some of the industrial concerns. In all the cases timely action and intervention by the Departmental officers brought the situation under control resulting in the restoration of normal conditions with minimum loss of production.

867. The causes for the occurrence of the strikes were, demand for higher wages, bonus and dearness allowance, claiming reinstatement of played off employees, as a protest against disciplinary action taken against some of the employees regarding holidays, etc. There were 10 strikes during the year as against 13 in the previous year.

Industrial Labour.

868. Information was received from 91 industrial undertakings coming under the purview of the Labour Enactments which were in force in Mysore State during the year. Besides, there were more than 500 plantations spread over an area of about 97,000 acres. The total strength of the plantation labour was estimated to be about 60,000 approximately spread over throughout the length and breadth of plantation area in the two districts of Chikmagalur and Hassan.

Security of Service.

869. Generally security of service was ensured to all workers employed in large industrial undertakings coming under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. The Works Service Rules guaranteed such security to employees in Government Industrial Concerns. As regards the workers employed in shops and other commercial establishments, their security of service was governed by the provisions of the Mysore Shops and Establishments Act. In the case of plantations, however, there was not much security of service as the work was of a seasonal nature lasting for 9 months in the year at best.

Wages, Dearness Allowance and Bonus.

870. The rates of wages paid to workers varied from concern to concern, except in the Kolar Gold Fields where similar rates of wages prevailed in all the four mines and the K.G.F. Electricity Department. The rates of dearness allowance paid also differed from factory to factory. Some of them paid dearness allowance on the basis of the Cost

of Living Index figures published by the Departments, while Government concerns paid it as per scales sanctioned by Government from time to time. The total amount of Dearness Allowance paid to employees during the year was Rs. 2,46,33,904 (Rs.1,94,84,392). The total amount of bonus paid was Rs. 38,34,732 (Rs. 26,28,977).

Labour Turnover.

871. The extent of labour turnover was 10·9 per cent as against 8·4 per cent in the previous year. There were 5,783 cases of voluntary withdrawals from service, 224 cases of retirement, 2,592 cases of discharge due to ill-health and other reasons and 305 cases of death.

Labour Associations.

872. There were 109 labour associations at the beginning of the year and 6 associations were formed and registered during the year. The total membership of the Associations as per figures available was 60,514 (55,351). All the Associations were functioning properly, except 22 in Bangalore Division, 12 in Mysore Division, 2 in Shimoga Division and one in Kolar Division.

Labour Welfare

873. The two recreation centres started by the Department at Bangalore, one at Cottonpet and the other at Chamarajapet, continued to work satisfactorily attracting the working class population nearby in large numbers through their multifarious activities.

874. The proposals to start similar Centres at Mysore and Davangere were under consideration.

875. The working class Cost of Living Index figures for the Cities at Bangalore, Mysore and K.G.F. continued to be published each month.

876. The *Mysore Labour Gazette* along with its Kannada and Tamil versions continued to be published as usual for the information of the public.

877. A directory of the Department of Labour and of the Trade Unions in the State of Mysore was published by the department. Folders entitled "Labour, the Nation's First Front" in English and Kannada were also published during the year.

878. With a view to establish harmonious relationship between workmen and their employers, the Department has taken timely steps to constitute works committees in the large industrial concerns, fixing minimum wages in many industries and plantations, conducting survey in connection with the collection of wage rates in agricultural labour in the State and the like. A scheme to display and